

#E1-1734
RJ



AL LINDLEY
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House of Representatives

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DISTRICT 93

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:

Revenue and Taxation
Rules

Health & Human Services
Ranking Democrat

November 3, 2005

AB-6-430X &
AB-1040X

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rini Ghosh, STB Environmental Analysis

FROM: Representative Al Lindley *AL*

SUBJECT: STB Docket AB-6 (Sub-No. 430X)
Fax: 202-565-9002

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

As Oklahoma State Representative serving many of the people in the affected area, I am writing to oppose approval of this railway abandonment in the strongest possible terms.

Abandonment of this high-quality rail line will destroy the only existing direct rail link from Will Rogers World Airport and much of Southwestern Oklahoma to downtown Oklahoma City. The usefulness of this facility, along with the usefulness of an intact Union Station rail yard is entirely obvious. Destruction of such assets in times of rising fuel prices cannot be defended.

More than this, however, the plan of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation which is plainly driving this abandonment request would re-route existing BNSF line rail traffic to at-grade crossings on Robinson and Walker Streets. For the first time in 75 years, Capital Hill and other South OKC residents would face conflicts with trains on those arterial streets. I know of no other case where replacing long-standing overpasses or underpasses with exclusively at-grade railroad crossings in such a densely populated area would even be considered. This needless endangerment of the driving public of my district is in no way acceptable. It is unwise, plainly dangerous and sets a bad precedent.

I believe I would be remiss in my responsibility to look out for the safety and future mobility of the people of my district if I failed to oppose this abandonment request. I urge you to reject it.